

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

including the Report of the

## **SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year

# **1954**



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MANOR HOUSE,  
CHESHUNT.

June. 1955

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

I have the honour to present my ninth annual report, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1954.

Vital statistics for the district show that the downward trend in the birth rate which has occurred since 1947 has apparently ceased, the rate for Cheshunt being 14.24 for 1954 compared with 15.2 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. The death rate for Cheshunt at 8.4 again compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales, which is 11.3. Of the total deaths in Cheshunt 32.3 per cent. occurred at age 75 or over. There were again no deaths from puerperal causes during the year.

The notification rates for whooping cough and measles were low and there were again no cases of diphtheria during the year. If diphtheria is to be kept under control, however, the protection of all children by immunisation is essential. Free immunisation may be obtained by consulting the family doctor or through the infant welfare centres.

It is pleasing to record that the incidence of all notifiable diseases during the year was low.

Further progress was made in dealing with unsatisfactory housing conditions, details of demolition and closing orders made being given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

While the problem of sub-standard housing in Cheshunt does not compare with that in many industrial areas much remains to be done in replacing, repairing or reconditioning unfit houses and improving those structurally sound houses which lack modern amenities. The availability of grants for the latter purpose is gradually becoming more widely known.

I should like once again to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation throughout the year and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support.

C. R. HILLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

# Urban District Council of Cheshunt

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1954-1955

Councillor J. W. GILLSON (*Chairman*)  
Councillor R. H. BEAL (resigned Aug., 1954)  
Councillor W. C. CLARK  
Councillor R. FINCHAM, J.P., C.C.  
Councillor Mrs. W. E. FINCHAM, J.P.  
Councillor D. T. HICKMAN  
Councillor T. H. PRICE  
Councillor Mrs. E. C. OAKDEN  
Councillor R. G. YOUNG  
Councillor R. P. ELLIS

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):*

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.CH.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):*

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Act:*

C. WILSON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (1, 3, 4)

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

S. C. BAKER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2, 3)

### GENERAL

*Clerk/Typist :* Miss T. PAVELY.

*Clerk :* Mr. E. J. DAY.

*Mortuary Attendant (Part-time):* Mr. G. WARNER.

*Rodent Operative :* Mr. P. F. DEAN.

### KEY TO QUALIFICATIONS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS:

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
3. Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works. Royal Sanitary Institute.

# SECTION I

## STATISTICS

AREA: The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's Estimate:

1943	18,590	1947	21,080	1951	23,290
1944	18,700	1948	21,210	1952	23,880
1945	18,700	1949	21,490	1953	24,670
1946	20,230	1950	22,180	1954	25,350

			1954	1955
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books (at 31st March)			7,144	7,547
Rateable Value ... ..	£161,754	£170,637		
Sum represented by penny rate	£636	£678		

## VITAL STATISTICS

CRUDE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION CHESHUNT				CRUDE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION CHESHUNT	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1945	...	333	17.8	202	10.8
1946	...	432	21.35	188	9.29
1947	...	494	23.43	226	10.7
1948	...	418	19.71	209	9.85
1949	...	381	17.73	213	9.91
1950	...	354	15.96	221	9.96
1951	...	395	16.96	222	9.53
1952	...	368	15.41	213	8.92
1953	...	353	14.31	179	7.26
1954	...	380	14.99	192	7.57

## COMPARABILITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the area comparability factor supplied for the purpose by the General Register Office. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The adjusted rates for Cheshunt, together with the crude rates for England and Wales for comparison, are as follows:

	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1950	9.96	0.85	8.47	11.6
1951	9.53	0.85	8.10	12.5
1952	8.92	0.85	7.58	11.3
1953	7.26	1.11	8.06	11.4
1954	7.57	1.11	8.40	11.3

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1950	15.96	0.97	15.48	15.8
1951	16.96	0.97	16.45	15.5
1952	15.41	0.97	14.95	15.3
1953	14.31	0.95	13.59	15.5
1954	14.99	0.95	14.24	15.2

	1953	1954
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still), Cheshunt ... ..	24.86	23.14

Deaths from puerperal causes, Cheshunt:

Deaths from puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ... ..	Nil	Nil
Deaths from other maternal causes	Nil	Nil

# DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :

Year			Cheshunt	England and Wales	
			No. of Deaths	Rate	Rate
			All infants per 1,000 live births		
1945	...	...	12	36.03	46
1946	...	...	15	34.72	43
1947	...	...	11	22.27	41
1948	...	...	6	14.35	34
1949	...	...	17	44.62	32
1950	...	...	8	22.59	29.8
1951	..	..	11	27.85	29.6
1952	...	..	6	16.30	27.6
1953	...	...	10	28.33	26.8
1954	...	...	12	31.58	25.5

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1954:

					Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningoccal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases					—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach			...	...	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus				...	11	—	11
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus			...	...	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	8	7	15
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—



	Male	Female	Total
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	12	26
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	24	10	34
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	—	2
Other heart disease ... ..	10	11	21
Other circulatory disease ... ..	4	5	9
Influenza ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	5	1	6
Bronchitis ... ..	12	3	15
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	3	—	3
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	6	12
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	—	—	—
All other accidents ... ..	2	5	7
Suicide ... ..	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
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All causes ... ..	123	69	192
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## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday: 8.45 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. 4th Tuesday morning in each month.
OPHTHALMIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Friday: 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.
PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Tolmers Road, Cuffley. Tuesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday: 2 to 5 p.m.
CHEST CLINIC	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey. Monday: 2 p.m. (Artificial Pneumothorax refills 10.45 a.m.)

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE.	Fire and Ambulance Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1954. 2 shift leaders, 6 ambulance drivers, 1 ambulance, 1 sitting case car.
DAY NURSERY.	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross (Tel.: Waltham Cross 4878). 40 places for children 0 to 5 years.
HOME HELP SERVICE	Organiser: Mrs. M. Ellis, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 to 11 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 31st December, 1954:—48. Cases assisted during 1954:—243.

WELFARE  
CENTRES

Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt.  
Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.  
Nockold Hall, Goff's Lane, Goff's Oak,  
1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at  
2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Rear of Greenfield House, High Street,  
Waltham Cross. (Tel.: Waltham Cross  
3401.)

Minor Ailments Clinic, Wednesday  
9 to 10 a.m.

Immunisation and Special Cases. 2nd  
and 4th Wednesday mornings (doctor  
attends).

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.  
Speech Therapy Clinic, Fridays 9 a.m.  
to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic. Monday 2 p.m. to  
4 p.m. Doctors attend.

Infant Welfare Centre. Wednesday  
1.45 to 4 p.m.

HEALTH VISITORS  
AND SCHOOL  
NURSES

Mrs. C. E. Tuscher, Nurse's Cottage,  
Park Lane, Broxbourne (Hoddesdon  
2656). (H.V. and School Nurse, Wormley).

Miss Churchill, Welfare Centre, High  
Street, Waltham Cross (Waltham Cross  
3401)

Miss J. P. Baker, Welfare Centre, High  
Street, Waltham Cross.

Miss J. P. Young, 8, St. George's Terrace,  
Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak (Cuffley 2420).

DISTRICT NURSES  
AND MIDWIVES

Mrs. C. E. Tuscher Nurse's Cottage, Park  
Lane, Broxbourne (Hoddesdon 2656).  
(Midwife, Turnford and Wormley).

Miss Hitchon and Miss Skidmore, 178,  
High Street, Waltham Cross (Waltham  
Cross 3127).

Miss Smith, 24, Cromwell Avenue,  
Cheshunt (Waltham Cross 3580).

Miss M. G. Brown, 8, St. George's  
Terrace, Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak (Cuffley  
2420).

Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead  
End (Waltham Cross 3410).

Mrs. A. V. Howlett, Top Flat, 85, High  
Street, Hoddesdon. (Part-time general  
nurse.)

## OTHER SERVICES

### BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

Miss E. Munns, Honorary Local Organiser, National Blood Transfusion Service, reports that twelve sessions were held during the year at the Health Centre, Waltham Cross. More donors are urgently needed and special publicity is being planned.

Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss Munns, at 49, Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 3026.

### BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Miss E. Munns, Vice-President, B.R.C.S., Herts., has again kindly supplied details of the work of the Cheshunt Division.

The Medical Loan Depot has an extensive range of medical equipment for the sick and injured available on loan on the recommendation of Medical Practitioners and District Nurses. A small fee, which is used for repairs and replacements, is charged for the equipment.

The local B.R.C.S. Detachment (Herts 74) has the following Officers :—

Commandant—Mrs. M. Ellis, “Folkvang,” Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Waltham Cross 3165.

Assistant Commandant—Mrs. L. G. Common, 49, Clarendon Road, Cheshunt. Waltham Cross 3978.

Quartermaster—Mrs. Brown, 133, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.

Members of the Detachment undertake invalid food distribution and do duty at Cheshunt Cottage Hospital, Dental Clinics, Cinemas and Blood Transfusion Sessions, and their services are available for fetes, etc., on request to the Commandant.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital, and specimens and patients may be referred to the laboratories.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

During the year no action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of the Act, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Two cases were referred to the Department during the year—in one the circumstances did not justify any action and in the other case it appeared likely that voluntary arrangements would be made.

#### MORTUARY.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year six bodies were received in the mortuary.

## SECTION III

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1953 and 1954:—

		1953	1954		
		Cases Notified	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	29	17	3	—
Measles	... ..	660	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	247	32	—	—
Pneumonia	... ..	38	19	2	6
Erysipelas	... ..	5	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	3	4	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	3	3	3	1
Dysentery	... ..	3	9	2	—
Food Poisoning	...	2	3	—	—
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum		—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	30	14	11	4

#### SCARLET FEVER.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever in 1954 again showed a reduction compared with the previous year. The number of cases notified in 1952 was seventy-four.

#### MEASLES.

The incidence of Measles, with only four cases notified, was the lowest for many years and followed the pattern of previous years with a minor epidemic occurring in alternate years.

Notifications of Measles in the last ten years are shown in the following table :—

Year			Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1954	...	...	4	0.16
1953	..	..	660	26.75
1952	...	...	199	8.33
1951	...	...	580	24.90
1950	...	...	22	0.99
1949	...	...	450	20.94
1948	...	...	128	6.04
1947	...	...	324	15.37
1946	...	...	59	2.91
1945	...	...	251	18.7

#### WHOOPING COUGH.

The number of cases of Whooping Cough was comparatively low. The incidence of this disease over the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year			Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1954	...	...	32	1.26
1953	...	...	247	10.01
1952	...	...	88	3.10
1951	...	...	71	3.05
1950	...	...	130	5.86
1949	...	...	48	2.23
1948	...	...	108	5.09
1947	..	...	147	6.97
1946	...	...	53	2.61
1945	...	...	26	1.39

#### POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year but in two cases the provisional diagnosis was not confirmed.



The confirmed case was paralytic poliomyelitis. The patient was a male aged 33 years.

One death was reported as having occurred from Bulbar Encephalitis at a hospital outside the district.

#### DYSENTERY.

The nine cases of Dysentery notified in Cheshunt were widespread in point of time, the notifications being received as follows:— April, 2; June, 3; July, 1; August, 2, and October, 1. Cases were again prevalent in neighbouring areas.

The three cases which occurred in June were members of one family and there was history of contact with a case in an adjoining area, as there was with the case which occurred in October.

The others were isolated cases and the sources of infection were not traced.

#### FOOD POISONING.

The three cases of Food Poisoning notified occurred in July. All were members of one family—the father, aged 35 years, and two children aged 9 years and 3 years. The mother and another child were not affected. The causative agent was *Samonella Typhi-murium*. The source of infection was not traced.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis in 1954 was 14, compared with 30 in 1953.



New Cases, 1954—classified by age groups:—

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—5	1	1	—	—	2
5—15	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	1	—	1	3
25—35	2	—	1	—	3
35—45	—	1	—	1	2
45—55	2	—	—	—	2
55—65	—	1	—	—	1
65 upwards	1	—	—	—	1
	7	4	1	2	14

	1953	1954
Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt	20	11

There were four deaths attributed to Tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1954, compared with three in 1953.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.

#### SCABIES.

There were no cases of Scabies referred to the Department for treatment during the year.

#### DISINFECTION.

Terminal disinfection of rooms and bedding is systematically carried out after open cases of tuberculosis. Generally after scarlet fever occupiers are advised thoroughly to cleanse and ventilate the room and to wash with soap and water all articles of contact.

# SECTION IV

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,383 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 811 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

#### SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	197
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects ... ..	43
Number of premises other than houses inspected ...	840
Premises re-inspected ... ..	659
Visits to works in progress ... ..	88
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	556
	2,383

Included in the above table are the following classified visits :—

Visits to Schools ... ..	20
„ „ swimming bath ... ..	8
„ „ moveable dwellings ... ..	66
„ re keeping of animals ... ..	70
„ „ Petroleum Acts ... ..	25
„ „ collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	255
„ „ verminous premises for disinfestation ...	3
„ „ infectious diseases and disinfections ...	47
„ „ drainage ... ..	13
„ „ rats and mice ... ..	43

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

#### CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

No action was taken under the Clearance Area procedure of the Housing Act during the year.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of the following individual unfit houses during the year:—

No.	Address	Date Demolition Order Made	Date Occupants Rehoused	Date Demolished
16	4 Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross	27.1.54	6.9.54	31.5.55
17	6 Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross	27.1.54	30.8.54	31.5.55
18	8 Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross	27.1.54	28.2.54	31.5.55
19	1 Over the Brook, Stockwell Lane, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54	28.2.55	1.6.55
20	2 Over the Brook, Stockwell Lane, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54	28.2.55	1.6.55
21	61 High Street, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54		
22	63 High Street, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54	9.8.54	
23	6 College Road, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54	27.12.54	4.5.55
24	102 Turner's Hill, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54	25.1.55	10.5.55
25	104 Turner's Hill, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54	21.2.55	10.5.55
26	106 Turner's Hill, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54	House vacant	10.5.55
27	108 Turner's Hill, Cheshunt ...	24.2.54	21.2.55	10.5.55
28	70 High Street, Cheshunt ...	24.3.54	4.10.54	20.10.54
			Temp. Halfway House	
29	72 High Street, Cheshunt ...	24.3.54	14.2.55	14.6.55
30	1 Firemans Cottage, Goff's Lane ... ..	27.7.54		
31	2 Fireman's Cottage, Goff's Lane ... ..	27.7.54		
32	Rose Cottage, Goff's Lane ...	27.7.54		
33	Pear Tree Cottage, Goff's Lane	27.7.54		
34	1 Burnt Farm Cottages, Jones Road ... ..	29.9.54	7.3.55	12.5.55
35	155 High Street, Cheshunt ...	26.11.54		
36	157 High Street, Cheshunt ...	26.11.54		
37	159 High Street, Cheshunt ...	26.11.54		

In addition, No. 2 Burnt Farm Cottages, Jones Road, which was vacant, was demolished on 6th September, 1954, prior to the completion of the Demolition Order procedure.

Closing Orders were made in respect of the following individual unfit houses during the year.

No.	Address	Date Closing Order made	Occupiers Rehoused
38	134 High Street, Cheshunt	27.7.54	—
39	113 High Street, Cheshunt	22.6.54	Vacant
40	121 Crossbrook Street	29.9.54	25.4.55

The following houses upon which demolition orders were made in 1953, were demolished during the year.

Address	Demolition Order made	Demolished
192 High Street, Cheshunt ...	5.6.53	28.6.54
1 Dover Cottages, Goff's Lane ...	5.6.53	19.7.54
2 Dover Cottages, Goff's Lane ...	17.6.53	19.7.54
68 High Street, Cheshunt ...	17.6.53	20.10.54
Jasmine Cottage, Newgatestreet Road ... ..	23.9.53	20.10.54
Pond Cottage, Newgatestreet Road	23.9.53	10.3.54

#### INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES.

The following information is given in tabular form as required by the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932:—

1. Number of Houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation ...	135
2. Number of houses defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	49

3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to					
(a) the service of notices requiring the execution of works	...	...	...	...	23
(b) the making of demolition orders or closing orders	...	...	...	...	14
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	...	...	...	...	13
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	...	...	...	...	12
6. The number of					
(a) Demolition Orders made	...	...	...		22
(b) Closing Orders made	...	...	...		3
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	Nil
8. Number of houses demolished	...	...	...		8

#### HOUSING STATISTICS.

##### Number of houses erected since 1945:

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt:—

Permanent traditional, including flats	...	...	709
Permanent prefabricated	...	...	18
Temporary prefabricated	...	...	135
By the Edmonton Borough Council	...	...	643
By the Tottenham Borough Council	...	...	179
By Private Enterprise	...	...	417

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2,101

Number of houses erected during 1954:

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt:—

Permanent traditional	...	...	...	...	96
By the Edmonton Borough Council	...	...	...	...	146
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	117
					<hr/> 359

#### HOUSING ACT, 1949—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Applications for Improvement Grants under Section 20, Housing Act, 1949, were received and dealt with as follows:

Address	Proposed Works	Estimated Cost	Decision
14 Mount Pleasant, Turner's Hill ...	Construction of Bathroom & W.C.	£365	Refused
24 Crossbrook St., Waltham Cross	Bathroom & W.C. Food Store. Fuel Store	£176	Grant of £88 approved
50 Crossbrook St., Waltham Cross	Bathroom & W.C.	£270	Grant of £135 approved

#### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Two certificates of disrepair were issued under the Act during the year. The possession of this certificate enables the tenant to refuse to pay the repairs increase until the house is repaired.

One certificate was revoked during the year, the work required having been carried out satisfactorily.



# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

## I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	87	52	4	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	94	55	4	—

The number of cases in which defects were remedied were as follows :—Insufficient, unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences—8.

There is one factory in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of 34 places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Nine inspections were made of out-workers' premises and they were found to be satisfactory.



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937—MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

During the year the factory of Messrs. S. Peters and Sons, Ltd., of Eleanor Cross Road, was certified under Section 34 of the Act as being provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may reasonably be required in the circumstances.

## SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance ... ..	13
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin ... ..	21
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises ... ..	103
Statutory Notices under Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring execution of works of drainage, etc., in existing building ... ..	1
Statutory Notices under Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936, regarding defective closets ... ..	1
Statutory Notices under Section 57, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, requiring execution of works to render premises suitable for use as a Slaughterhouse ...	2
Statutory Notices under Section 287, Public Health Act, 1936, re notice before entry ... ..	2

## SUMMARY

Statutory Notices requiring defects in dwelling-houses to be remedied :—

Served, 1954 ... ..	13	Complied with, 1954 ... ..	13
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1953 ... ..	2	Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1954 ... ..	1
Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1953	Nil	Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1954	Nil
		Cancelled ... ..	1
	15		15

## Statutory Notices requiring provision of dustbins:—

Served, 1954	...	...	21	Complied with by:				
Outstanding, 31st Dec.,				Owner	...	...	...	20
1953	...	...	1	Occupier	...	...	...	Nil
Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1953	Nil			Local Authority in				
				default	...	...	...	2
				Outstanding, 31st Dec.,				
				1954	...	...	...	Nil
				Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1954	Nil			
			<hr/>					<hr/>
			22					22
			<hr/>					<hr/>

## Intimation Notices:

Outstanding, 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	29
Outstanding, 31st December, 1954	...	...	...	...	43
Served during 1954	...	...	...	...	220

## WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

All dwelling-houses in the district are supplied from public mains direct to the houses with the exception of approximately ten outlying cottages and farms, where the water is obtained from private sources.

One complaint was received regarding the taste and appearance of the mains water supply at a dwelling-house at Theobalds Park. The Metropolitan Water Board collected samples from a tap off the main at the premises and the laboratory reports showed the water to be of satisfactory bacteriological quality but somewhat poor physical quality. The Board stated that this may be due to the fact that the premises are a mile away from the nearest Board's main to which connection was made by a privately owned copper pipe laid about two years previously. The Board arranged for the taps in the premises to be flushed and no further complaints were received.

Details of reports on all samples of water taken during the year are shown in the table which follows. All were from private sources of supply.

At Theobalds Secondary Modern School the source of supply is a deep bore well and an automatic chlorination plant is installed. The water supply at the Camping Ground at Theobalds Park is from the same source as that at the school.

Thirty-two samples taken from this source between January and September were satisfactory, but the sample taken on the 28th September was unsatisfactory. On receipt of this unsatisfactory report the storage tank was emptied, cleansed and chlorinated but a further sample proved unsatisfactory. The tank was again emptied, cleansed and chlorinated and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The three-inch overflow to the storage tank was fitted with a flap but this had become dislodged by the wind and a birds' nest was found in the end of the overflow pipe. This appeared to be the cause of the trouble. The birds' nest was removed, the overflow cleansed and the flap reinstated.

At Aqueduct Lock House the supply of water for domestic purposes is filtered river water, and the unsatisfactory samples Nos. 1 and 3 were apparently due to inadequate maintenance of the filter. The occupier was instructed on maintenance procedure and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

# REPORT ON WATER SAMPLES

No.	Date	Address	Plate Count		Coli Approx. Proportn.		Remarks
			3 days 22° C.	2 days 37° C.	per 100 ml. Coli	Non-faecal Coli	
1	5.1.54	Aqueduct Lock House, River Lea Bank—filter	30	4	1	100	Unsatisfactory
2	5.1.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	22	2	Nil	—	Satisfactory
3	12.1.54	Aqueduct Lock House, River Lea Bank—filter	Too many to count	3	Nil	—	Unsatisfactory B. Pyocyaneous Present
4	12.1.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	30	2	Nil	—	Satisfactory
5	12.1.54	Aqueduct Lock House, River Lea Bank—filter	30	1	Nil	—	"
6	19.1.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	30	Nil	Nil	—	"
7	19.1.54	Aqueduct Lock House, River Lea Bank—filter	13	Nil	Nil	—	"
8	26.1.54	ditto	15	5	Nil	—	"
9	26.1.54	ditto	Too many to count	4	Nil	—	"

No.	Date	Address	Plate Count		Coli Approx. Proportion.		Remarks
			3 days 22° C.	2 days 37° C.	per 100 ml. Coli	Non-faecal Coli	
10	26.1.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	8	Nil	Nil	—	Satisfactory
11	2.2.54	ditto	30	12	Nil	—	"
12	9.2.54	ditto	40	Nil	Nil	—	"
13	16.2.54	ditto	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
14	23.2.54	ditto	2	1	Nil	—	"
15	2.3.54	ditto	1	1	Nil	—	"
16	16.3.54	ditto	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
17	23.3.54	ditto	2	Nil	Nil	—	"
18	30.3.54	ditto	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
19	6.4.54	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park—Standpipe ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
20	20.4.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap, Gardener's Cottage .	2	3	Nil	—	"
21	26.4.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	3	7	Nil	—	"
22	4.5.54	ditto	2	1	Nil	—	"

No.	Date	Address	Plate Count		Coli Approx. Proportn.		Remarks
			3 days 22° C.	2 days 37° C.	per 100 ml. Coli	Non-faecal Coli	
23	11.5.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	4	Nil	Nil	—	Satisfactory
24	18.5.54	ditto	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
25	25.5.54	ditto	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
26	1.6.54	ditto	3	1	Nil	—	"
27	8.6.54	ditto	1	Nil	Nil	—	"
28	15.6.54	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park—Standpipe ...	3	Nil	Nil	—	"
29	22.6.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	18	Nil	Nil	—	"
30	29.6.54	ditto	Nil	1	Nil	—	"
31	6.7.54	Theobalds Secondary School —C.W. tap (lav. basin), Gardener's Cottage ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
32	13.7.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	3	Nil	Nil	—	"
33	20.7.54	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park—Standpipe ...	Nil	2	Nil	—	"

No.	Date	Address	Plate Count		Coli Approx. Proportn.		Remarks
			3 days 22° C.	2 days 37° C.	per 100 ml. Coli	Non-faecal Coli	
34	27.7.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	1	1	Nil	—	Satisfactory
35	10.8.54	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park—Standpipe ...	2	2	Nil	—	"
36	31.8.54	ditto	7	2	Nil	—	"
37	14.9.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	8	4	Nil	—	"
38	21.9.54	ditto	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
39	28.9.54	ditto	14	8	3	50	Unsatisfactory
40	5.10.54	ditto	40	8	5	100	"
41	11.10.54	ditto	8	4	Nil	—	Satisfactory
42	11.10.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Standpipe, field adjoining	3	3	Nil	—	"



No. Date	Address	Plate Count		Coli Approx. Proportn.		Remarks
		3 days 22° C.	2 days 37° C.	per 100 ml. Coli	Non-faecal Coli	
43 19.10.54	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap over sink in kitchen	14	Nil	Nil	—	Satisfactory
44 26.10.54	ditto	50	5	Nil	—	"
45 2.11.54	ditto	4	Nil	Nil	—	"
46 9.11.54	ditto	8	4	Nil	—	"
47 16.11.54	ditto	5	2	Nil	—	"
48 23.11.54	ditto	4	1	Nil	—	"
49 30.11.54	ditto	2	3	Nil	—	"
50 7.12.54	ditto	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	"
51 14.12.54	ditto	Nil	3	Nil	—	"

## SWIMMING BATH.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area. The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately owned, is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Routine tests for free chlorine are carried out with a chlorotex indicator.

Seven samples were taken during the season, one for full chemical and bacteriological examination and six for bacteriological examination only. All the bacteriological reports were satisfactory. The full chemical and bacteriological report again commented upon the standard of clarity of the bath water.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Consents under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, were renewed in respect of thirty-seven moveable dwellings and a new consent was granted in respect of one moveable dwelling on the Willows Site, Waltham Cross, for a further period of twelve months.

Consents were also renewed in respect of caravans on the following sites:—

209 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.

Pylon Farm, St. James Road.

Springfield Nurseries, Crouch Lane.

Land occupied by Smith, St. James Road.

60 Longfield Lane, Cheshunt.

An application under the Act in respect of a caravan at Plough Nursery, Flamstead End, was refused.

Two new applications were granted for caravans at Sicklesfield Nursery, Appleby Street, and at 205 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.

Applications were considered in respect of sites at MacCrae Nursery, Slipe Lane; Theobalds Park Farm, and Highview Farm, Crouch Lane. The applicants were informed of the requirements of the Council in relation to drainage, sanitary accommodation, water supply and hard standing which would be necessary before consent was granted.

Further proceedings for contravention of the Act were taken against occupiers of caravans at Burton Grange, Rags Lane. This matter was referred to in last year's report. In February, fines and continuing penalties were imposed on four occupiers of caravans and in May a continuing penalty of six shillings a day was imposed on the one remaining occupier on the site. In June this van was removed and the site cleared.

During the year the Council had under consideration three railway carriages and one Nissen hut used for residential purposes at Theobalds Park Farm under service tenancies. Electricity is laid on, mains water is obtained from a stand-pipe and a gully discharging to a cesspool is provided for drainage. Each dwelling has a chemical closet approximately 100 yards away.

The railway carriages, which are technically moveable dwellings, are stated to have been in use since the first world war and one tenant has been in occupation for 20 years. The structures are in a reasonably good state of repair but are sub-standard in relation to amenities.

The owner undertook to investigate the possibility of replacing the dwellings with permanent agricultural cottages and the Council decided to include the dwellings in the list for consideration for demolition orders or clearance area procedure under the Housing Acts.

## INFESTATION.

The use of contact insecticides and where necessary the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing are the methods used to combat infestation.

Contact insecticides in small tins are available from the Public Health Department for purchase by householders for follow-up treatment or for use where infestation is slight.

Advice and assistance is occasionally sought in dealing with infestations of ants, wasps and the furniture beetle. Cases of infestation by bed bugs and fleas are now rare.

# RODENT CONTROL

Year ended 31st March, 1955

	Type of Property			All other (including Business and Industrial)
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	
Total number of properties ...	7	7,309	173	868
Number of properties inspected .	7	645	50	66
Number of properties found to be infested by rats ...	2 4	4 80	— 2	— 21
Number of properties found to be infested by mice ...	— 1	— 15	— —	— 6
Number of infested properties treated ...	7	99	2	27
				135

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises.

The annual test baiting of the soil sewers was carried out during April and May and of 169 man-holes baited, 15 partial and complete takes occurred.

Poison treatment was carried out in the areas where takes were recorded and subsequent post baiting failed to reveal further infestation.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A weekly collection of refuse is carried out by means of five Chelsea type side loading vehicles and a new 16/18 cu. yd. Fore and Aft Tipping Vehicle which was put into service on 1st November, 1954. The new vehicle is provided with a roof rack and trailer for the collection of salvage.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit. Conditions at the tip were considerably improved during the year by the use of the Tractor Dozer purchased in 1953 and the one cu. yd. Hydraulic Scraper attachment purchased in April, 1954. The Scraper is used to dig and spread covering material on the tip.

Details of salvage sales during the year together with the figures for 1953 are as follows:—

	1953						1954					
	Weight		Value				Weight		Value			
	tons	cwt.	£	s.	d.		tons	cwt.	£	s.	d.	
Waste Paper .	212	3¼	1445	19	5		242	0¾	1574	19	2	
Pig Food ...	168	0	260	0	0		223	0	269	3	4	
Rags .. ..	9	2	326	9	9		10	4	386	18	5	
Bottles and Jars	12	16½	72	9	9		13	0	75	6	11	
Light Metal .	1	6¾	112	9	1		1	11¾	161	17	7	
Cullet ...	1	18	3	8	0		3	8	5	17	9	
Scrap Iron ...	4	2	17	4	0		13	14¼	45	9	2	
	409	8½	£2238	0	0		506	18¾	£2519	12	4	

The cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal for the past three years, after the income from salvage sales had been deducted, was as follows:—

			Year to 31st March		
			1953	1954	1955
Population	...	...	23,880	24,670	25,350
Net Cost	...	...	£10,015	£11,161	£12,281
Cost per 1,000 population			£430	£452	£484



The Public Cleansing Costing Return published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the year 1954, shows the average annual refuse collection and disposal cost per 1,000 of the population of 89 authorities under 30,000 population to be £499.

The needs of the board-making industry for salvaged waste paper continues to increase and in October the price of mixed papers in pressed packed bales was raised from £6 10s. 0d. to £7 0s. 0d. per ton.

The Council have a contract with Messrs. Thames Board Mills Ltd. for the sale of waste paper until March, 1958.

The collection of kitchen waste is carried out from communal street bins by a private contractor under annual contract. The bins are regularly cleansed at the contractor's depot and the bins and stands are sprayed with D.T.T. during the summer months.

In the early part of the year the kitchen waste contractor reported that the contents of the communal street bins were being removed on occasions by unauthorised persons and six communal bins from various sites were stolen.

It is an offence to sort over or disturb the contents of a bin deposited for collection by the local authority and printed notices were affixed to the bins and to notice boards offering a reward of £2 for information leading to the conviction of persons removing kitchen waste bins or the contents thereof without the permission of the Council. After this the thefts ceased.

#### REFUSE DUMPS.

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted by the County Council and the District Council under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, and a number of sites previously excavated for gravel are being filled in accordance with the terms of these consents.



One new consent was granted during the year in respect of additional land at the Turnford site of Lea Valley Sand and Ballast Pits Ltd.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One licence to keep a pet shop was granted during the year and the conditions recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were incorporated in the licence.

#### FOULING OF FOOTWAYS BY DOGS.

A Byelaw in respect of the fouling of footways in the Urban District by dogs was confirmed by the Secretary of State and came into operation on 1st June, 1954.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The total number of food premises in the area is 253 and the number classified according to the type of business is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	43
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	57
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	24
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	16
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	8
Confectioners	..	...	...	...	...	64
Cafes, Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	26
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	20
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	7

During the year 584 visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	165
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fish Shops	...	..	...	...	...	24
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	117
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	64
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	32
Licensed Premises	...	'	...	...	...	19
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...					135

At premises other than slaughterhouses, the following food-stuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption :—

Canned Goods of all descriptions	...					1,089 tins
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	478 lb.
Kidney	...	...	...	...	...	12 lb.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	435 lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	8½ lb.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	178 lb.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	24 lb.
Cheese Pieces	...	...	...	...	...	39 lb.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	80 doz.
Haricot Beans	...	...	...	...	...	31½ lb.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	136 lb.

Practically the whole of the foodstuffs surrendered were examined on request at retailers' or wholesalers' premises.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the registration of dairy farms and for the enforcement on dairy farms of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The District Council is responsible for those provisions of the Regulations which apply outside dairy farms, for the registration of dairies which are not dairy farms and dairy men who are not dairy farmers.

Fifteen samples of milk from various retailers were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Hertford, for examination during the year and all the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

A complaint was received in June that a bottle of school milk had been found on being opened to contain a beetle in the milk. The cap had been completely removed from the bottle and the beetle was found by a boy of 11 years.

The processing equipment and the bottle washing and bottle filling equipment of the suppliers is modern and they contended that the condition of the beetle was inconsistent with it having been passed through their bottle washing machine. After full consideration of all the circumstances the Council decided that no action should be taken.

Following a communication from the Ministry of Health that a tin of branded cream had been found at Birmingham to contain an organism identified as *Salmonella typhi*, a check was made at retailers' premises locally and only one was found who stocked this brand of cream. The stock had already been withdrawn by the wholesaler.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953, appointed the 1st of October, 1954, as the date from which it shall be compulsory to use caps or covers overlapping the lips of containers of pasteurised milk.

#### MILK LICENCES.

Licences were granted for the year 1954 as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested—Dealer's Licence	...	...	4
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	...	3
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	6
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	3
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	17
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	5

## SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES.

Prior to the decontrol of meat, discussions were held with representatives of the Producers and Meat Traders and a canvass of Meat Traders was carried out to ascertain what local slaughtering facilities were likely to be required

Applications were received for licences for three slaughter-houses and the local representative of the meat traders stated that he considered that if the licences were granted the needs of the district for slaughtering facilities would be met.

The premises concerned were 35 High Street, Cheshunt; 133 High Street, Waltham Cross, and St. Andrews Nursery, Andrews Lane.

The first two premises were stated to be registered slaughter-houses and to have been in use for slaughtering purposes prior to 1847. The slaughterhouse at St. Andrews Nursery was built in 1933, and prior to 1940, was subject to annual licensing.

Notices under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were served in respect of the first two premises, requiring specified works to be carried out to render the premises suitable for use as slaughterhouses, and in the case of 35 High Street, Cheshunt, the work was carried out satisfactorily and the premises licenced to 31st July, 1957. The work required at 133 High Street, Waltham Cross, was not completed at the end of the year. In the case of the slaughterhouse at St. Andrews Nursery, suitable washing facilities were installed and the premises were licensed to 31st July, 1957.

In July an application was considered in respect of a proposed new slaughterhouse at Tanfield Stud Farm but this proposal was not proceeded with.

At the end of the year there were two slaughterhouses in regular use.

The number of visits to slaughterhouses during the year was 165 and details of carcasses inspected and condemned are shown in the following table:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known	105	—	8	509	332
Number inspected ...	105	—	8	509	332
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	—	2	9	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	13.3	—	25	1.96	2.40
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	8	—	—	—	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	7.62	—	—	—	3.31

#### METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned foodstuffs which are considered suitable for that purpose are disposed of for animal feeding. Other condemned foodstuffs are buried with suitable precautions at the



Council's Refuse Disposal Tip, or, in special cases, are sent to the Refuse Incineration Plant of an adjoining authority.

#### LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN.

Licences were granted to seven applicants under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter house, and three applications were deferred pending the submission of details of experience. The three latter applications were not proceeded with.

#### HUMANE SLAUGHTERING.

Following the re-introduction of slaughtering locally on the decontrol of meat, the Council had under consideration the application of the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, to sheep. No formal action was necessary, however, since the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1954, extended throughout England and Wales to all kinds of animals the requirement that when animals are slaughtered in slaughter-houses or knackery yards, they shall be instantaneously slaughtered or instantaneously stunned and rendered insensible until death supervenes.

#### FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME.

At the request of the Ministry of Food the Council agreed to arrangements whereby the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector should carry out certification procedure in connection with the guarantee payment scheme for pigs slaughtered at local slaughterhouses which were approved under the scheme.

#### REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949,



together with the number of inspections is shown in the following table:—

Premises	No.	No. of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	69	117
Food Preparing Premises ...	21	33
Dairies ... ..	4	4

#### ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Hertford, by the methylene blue test, and the samples are graded according to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the year 83 samples were submitted for examination, at least one sample being taken from each registered retailer. The results were as follows:—

Grade I	Wrapped ...	61	}	81.93%	}	90.36%
	Unwrapped .	7				
Grade II	Wrapped ...	5				
	Unwrapped .	2				
Grade III	Wrapped ...	3	}	7.23%		
	Unwrapped .	3				
Grade IV	Wrapped ...	1	}	2.41%		
	Unwrapped .	1				

The methylene blue test is not a statutory test and the Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50% of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade I, 80% to Grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

With the exception of the two samples classified as Grade IV, the sampling results are satisfactory.

A copy of the laboratory report is supplied to the retailer in respect of all samples taken and where the sample is classified in Grades III or IV an advisory visit is made to the premises, and follow up samples are taken. In each case the follow up samples were satisfactory.

Of the four samples of wrapped ice cream placed in Grades III and IV three samples were from one manufacturer. Copies of the laboratory reports were sent, for information, to the Sanitary Inspector for the District where the ice cream was manufactured.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Following the publication of the Census Report, the powers under the Shops Act, which relate to hours of closing, conditions of employment and Sunday trading, were transferred from the County Council to the District Council.

In June the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector were appointed Shops Act Inspectors.

#### CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

There was no new educational activity during the year but every opportunity was taken to discuss the essential points of clean food handling with the staffs of catering establishments and other food premises during the routine inspections, when particular attention is paid to securing compliance with the Clean Food Byelaws.

A talk was given in November to the Cheshunt Grammar School Scout Group when films were shown and food hygiene was discussed.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Food and Drugs Inspector of the County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority, has kindly supplied

the following particulars of samples taken in Cheshunt during the year:—

Article	Procured	Genuine	Not Genuine
	No.	No.	No.
Milk            ...            ...	9	9	—
Full Cream Lolly .	1	1	—

The census report enables Cheshunt, having a population in excess of 20,000, to make application to the Minister of Health to be the Food and Drugs Authority for the district in lieu of the County Council. The Council have decided to make an application.

# Contents

	Page		Page
Adulteration of Food .....	42	Measles .....	11
Ambulance .....	7	Meat and Other Foods .....	35
Area .....	3	Midwives .....	8
Blood Transfusion .....	9	Milk and Dairies .....	36
British Red Cross Society .....	9	Milk Licences .....	37
Clean Food Campaign .....	42	Mortuary .....	10
Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses .....	16	Movable Dwellings .....	29
Day Nursery .....	7	National Assistance Act, 1948 .....	10
Deaths—Cause of .....	5	Notifiable Diseases .....	11
Disinfection .....	14	Pet Animals Act, 1951 .....	35
District Nurses .....	8	Poliomyelitis .....	12
Dysentery .....	13	Population .....	3
Factories—Inspection of .....	20	Public Health Committee .....	2
Factories Act, 1937—		Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	33
Means of Escape in case of fire .....	21	Refuse Dumps .....	34
Fatstock Guarantee Scheme .....	40	Regional Hospital Board Services .....	7
Food Poisoning .....	13	Rodent Control .....	32
Food Premises—		Sanitary Inspection of the Area .....	15
Registration of .....	40	Scabies .....	14
Fouling of Footways by dogs .....	35	Scarlet Fever .....	11
Health Visitors .....	8	School Nurses .....	8
Home Help Service .....	7	Service of Notices .....	21
Housing Act 1949—		Shops Acts, 1950—	
Improvement Grants .....	19	Slaughtering Facilities .....	38
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—		Slaughtermen—	
Certificates of Disrepair .....	19	Licensing of .....	40
Housing Statistics .....	18	Staff .....	2
Humane Slaughtering .....	40	Swimming Bath .....	29
Ice Cream—Sampling .....	41	Tuberculosis .....	13
Infestation .....	31	Vital Statistics .....	3
Inspection of Dwelling Houses .....	17	Water .....	22
Laboratory Facilities .....	10	Welfare Centres .....	8
		Whooping Cough .....	12